

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority, and for indicating that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received. However, the Examiner has failed to indicate whether the drawings filed in the application have been accepted. In this regard, the Examiner indicates that he is delaying indicating the acceptability of the drawings until such time as the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants believe that the filed drawings are acceptable, and based on the present amendment, believe all the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to confirm the acceptance of the drawings in the next official communication.

Applicants note that the Examiner has crossed out the listing of numerous Abstracts and a partial English language translation for numerous foreign documents listed on a PTO-1449 form that was filed on December 21, 2005, asserting that they were previously cited and considered by the Examiner. Applicants thank the Examiner for confirming in the Office Action that he did in fact consider the relevancy of all of the submitted Abstracts and the partial English language translation that were previously submitted.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 1-21.

By the current amendment, Applicants cancel, without prejudice, withdrawn claims 24, 26-30, 33 and 35-39, in order to advance the prosecution of the present application. However, Applicants expressly reserve the right to submit similar type claims in another application.

Applicants further cancel claims 22, 25, 31 and 34 in order to advance the present application to issue. Cancellation of these claims should not be interpreted as an acquiescence of the appropriateness of the rejection, but as a sincere effort to have the present application passed to issue. Accordingly, Applicants reserve the right to submit claims similar to the canceled claims in another application.

In view of the cancellation of claims 22, 25, 31 and 34, Applicants submit that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection and objection to the drawings (with respect to claim 22) no longer exist. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection and ground for rejection.

As a result of the current amendment, only allowed claims 1-21 remain pending in the application. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to re-confirm the allowability of claims 1-21, and pass this application to issue.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in


combination, discloses or suggests the present invention, as defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Tomoko MORITA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438

August 14, 2006
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191